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May 2026

San Francisco Board of Supervisors

1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place

City Hall, Room 244

San Francisco, Ca. 94102-4689

RE: Protecting SF Environment's General Fund Budget Allocation

Dear Supervisors,

On behalf of USGBC California (USGBC-CA), I write to urge you to restore the full budget for the San Francisco Environment Department (SFE). Maintaining the proposed cuts would have a devastating impact on San Francisco's climate programs at a critical moment.

USGBC California's members are designers, engineers, building owners, consultants, product manufacturers, and service providers. Our mission is to transform California through the built environment into a more sustainable, resilient, and equitable place for all. More specifically, our Bay Area Regional Leadership Advisory Board is composed of 16 industry leaders whose subject matter expertise includes engineering, construction, architecture, real estate, higher education, and utilities.

The transition to healthy, efficient, and climate smart buildings will suffer in the absence of strong leadership from SFE. The Climate Equity Hub provides building electrification projects for low-income residents and workforce training. SFE is also helping to prepare the region for implementation of the Bay Area Air District's zero emission water heating rule 9-6, which goes into effect next year, through its contractor training and its leadership role in the "Sprint to 9-6" coalition of Bay Area cities.

San Francisco Environment's talented staff are especially vital now, as the federal government has rolled back national climate policies and cut funding for climate work, targeting California in particular. USGBC California, like so many other organizations in the state, received a letter from the Department of Energy with

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the intention to terminate our grant on October 1, 2025. We continue to seek assistance encouraging DOE to reconsider this decision, which would support our building performance standards (BPS) work and make an important impact throughout the state.

SFE's leadership on building decarbonization and participation in our CalBPS Peer Learning Collaborative has provided valuable encouragement to our team to continue our BPS work despite the loss in funding.

Also worthy of mention is SFE staff's deep-seated and unique expertise supporting department teams across SF City government to implement the Climate Action Plan and enhance project outcomes. SFE has already been forced to cut 3 full-time-equivalent staff positions this fiscal year, with another 7.8 FTE positions slated for elimination in July. As the skills of SFE staff are not regularly found across existing City teams, these reductions will undoubtedly lead to a noticeable skills gap and possibly more costly operations to fulfill the City's programmatic requirements.

Lastly, at risk are millions in future grants as SF Environment brings in many times its budget in outside grants. I urge you to prevent these losses by restoring full funding to the department.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Ben Stapleton,
Chief Executive Officer